

NSC BRIEFING

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SUPREME SOVIET MEETING: 11-16 JULY

1. Accomplishments:

A. Passed a new pension bill (old age pensions up 90%, disability compensation up 50 to 65%)

B. Passed world disarmament and end to weapons tests resolutions.

C. Reduced Karelo-Finnish SSR to a Karelian Autonomous Republic (incorporated in the RSFSR).

2. Most of the session was devoted to propagandizing the regime's interest in the welfare of the Soviet citizen and illustrating the universal popular approval of the pensions bill. The entire session was routine.

3. The recent session differed from the last (December 1955) only in subject matter. As usual, deputies spoke as representatives of groups rather than as individuals, and unimportant amendments were made to the original bills submitted by the government. All bills were passed unanimously.

4. Although Khrushchev made a speech to the December 1955 meeting, and did not speak at this one, his role was actually the same at both sessions.

A. His 1955 speech was made in his capacity as a Deputy, and was comment on his and Bulganin's recently completed South Asia trip.

B. He did not attend the perfunctory opening sessions of either house of the Supreme Soviet, on either occasion but

was present, as in the past, at this year's joint session which did the real work of the Supreme Soviet.

C. This time, also, Khrushchev was busy meeting a stream of Western and Satellite party bigwigs all the time the Supreme Soviet was in session.